

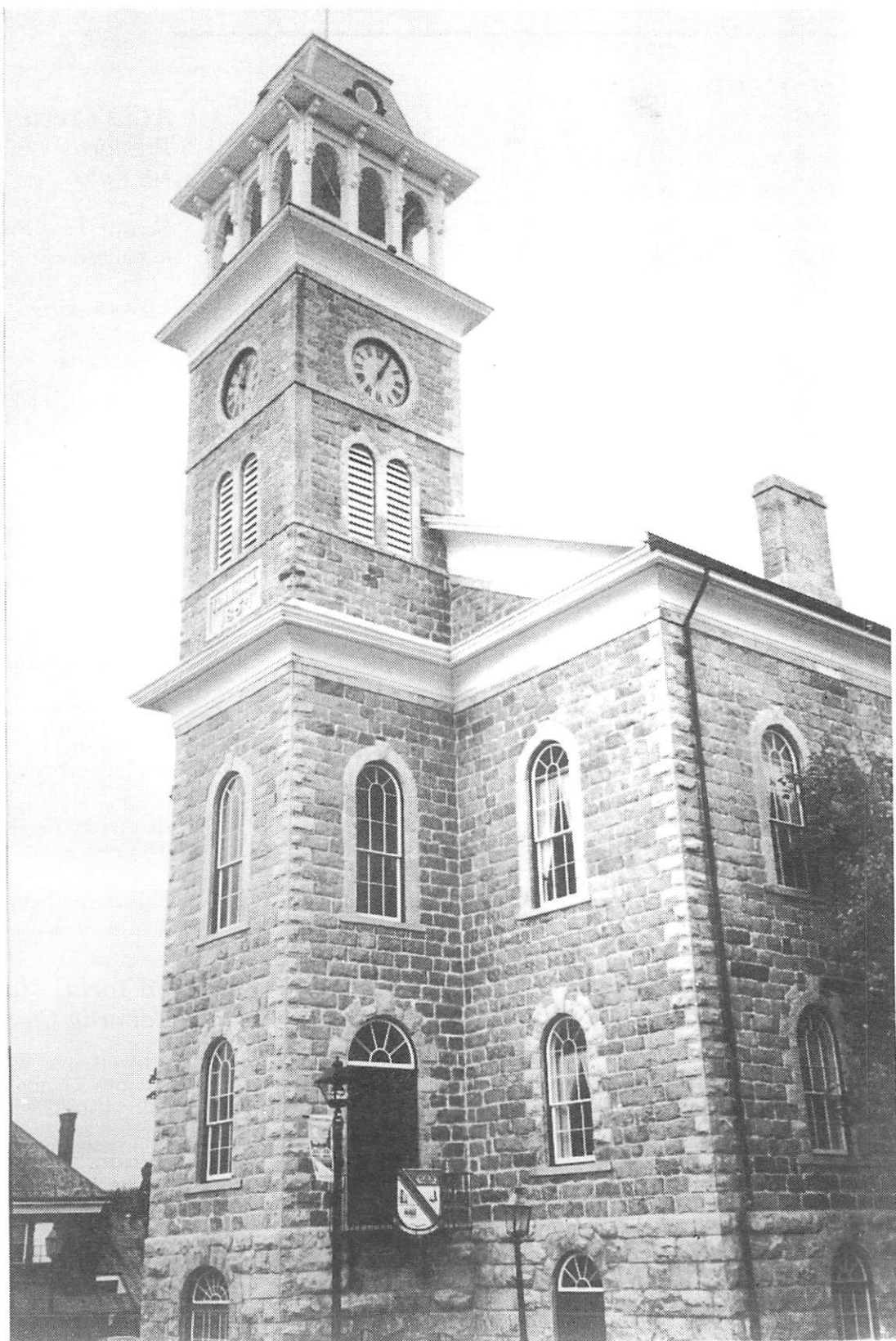
ACORN

The Journal of The Architectural Conservancy of Ontario

XIX
Spring



2
1994



The Architectural Conservancy of Ontario Inc.
10 Adelaide Street East, Suite 204, Toronto, Ontario M5C 1J3
Telephone (416) 367-8075



A society incorporated in 1933 for the preservation of the best examples of the architecture of the province, and for the protection of its places of natural beauty.

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Galt (Cambridge) City Hall
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Council News

MARKETING/FUND-RAISING STUDY

The ACO has applied for and received a \$9,000 Special Projects Grant from The Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Recreation. A portion of the grant is earmarked for a professional consultant's analysis of the ACO's current funding patterns and opportunities, and an evaluation of the current range of "services" we offer to our constituency. Most importantly, the final report will include an action plan for implementation of the recommendations that come out of the study. The remaining portion of the grant funds will be spent on a recommended project.

BRANT COUNTY BRANCH

The new By-law for Brant County Branch which was discussed in the President's Report of the last issue of ACORN was presented to a meeting chaired by ACO President Julia Beck in Brantford on April 7. The By-law was adopted and a new slate of officers elected for a two year term. Plans were made for a meeting to be held the following day to draw up a program for the coming year.

CAMDEN EAST PROPERTY

Now that the fitting up of the Skinner-Jackson House is complete, our resident cabinet maker and ideal tenant Randy Rhem has agreed to stay on a regular rental basis, thereby covering the running costs of the property. The question is still occasionally asked whether there is a mortgage against the property. The answer is no - the ACO owns the property outright.

FIVE YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN

Having been heavily involved in the preparation of this document, which arose out of two Strategic Planning Forums and consultation with branch presidents, I am very pleased to inform those who were unable to attend the AGM that the Plan was adopted unanimously. In case you missed it, check the previous issue (Winter/AGM issue) of ACORN for the full text.

Conference and Annual Meeting Report

WHEN A HOUSE IS NOT A HOME: THE HOUSE MUSEUM

The conference, a joint venture with the Ontario Historical Society and the Ontario Museum Association, was held April 22 and 23, at the Cambridge (Galt) City Hall. Due to space limitations, we will mention briefly the speakers and topics.

Julia Beck, President of the ACO, opened the conference. Mike Farnan, M.P.P., and welcomed the conference participants.

Mayor Jane Brewer of Cambridge also brought greetings on behalf of City Council.

Julia Beck introduced the conference co-ordinator, Alison Jackson.

Senior Vice-President, Alec Keefer, announced next year's conference which will take place May 17th to 21st in Ottawa. The conference theme will deal with the Gothic influence on the Vernacular style in Ontario.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS: GOOD HOUSEKEEPING

Tom Cunningham, President of Save Our Heritage Organization (SOHO) spoke about and showed slides of the Proctor House in Brighton.

The house, an Italianate farm house, was built in 1869, by John Proctor. Over the years the house had fallen into disrepair and by 1972 its fate was uncertain. Ten people organized SOHO and saved the house in 1972.

There is a group of 50 volunteers and the executive that run the house. They do fund raising in the local community and a large part of the success is due to community involvement, such as the Women's Institute that runs a Victorian Tea in the summer.

ONTARIO'S HOUSE MUSEUMS

Jim Leonard, who teaches history and political science at Trent University, spoke about the Ontario Museum Association's Data Base of Heritage Institutions. In 1990 a survey was done of all known institutions and

700 were identified. The statistics from the questionnaire that was sent out are quite interesting:

- 60% of all heritage institutions are in old structures
- a large percentage are historic houses
- 80% of all house museums were constructed in the 19th century
- half of all the heritage institutions were founded in the 1960s and 70s
- there was a big drop in establishing house museums in the 1980s.

HISTORIC HOUSE MUSEUMS: THE JOYS AND CHALLENGES

Beth Hanna, director of Myrtleville, a Heritage Canada property in Brantford, and former curator of the Gibson House in North York, discussed the benefits of house museums:

- to educate the public about the life of past generations
- the houses help visitors connect with the past
- they help to put flesh and blood on the bones of history
- they provide a place for collections

She advised that for a successful house museum, the following were necessary:

- a good preservation & landscape plan is essential
- consider the house as an artifact
- additions to the house museum have to be carefully planned
- the interpretation of the site must be interesting and factual
- funding is very important
- not everything needs a feasibility study

CASE STUDIES

MONTGOMERY'S INN, ETOBICOKE

Elizabeth Ingolfssrud showed slides of the restored inn built c1832. The property is owned by the City of Etobicoke and the restoration was a centennial project. It opened in 1975 and is run on a budget of \$510,000 with a staff of 5 full time people and 14 part time and 40 volunteers. They run a variety of programmes and changing exhibits.

FRANCOIS BABY HOUSE: WINDSOR

Lawrence Grant, director at the

house, presented slides of the 1812 Baby House in the south end of Windsor. The roof line of the house has been altered from the original and the brick is in a somewhat deteriorated condition. The house is in a difficult location. It is hemmed in by the Cleary Auditorium and overshadowed by a hotel, close to a parking garage and near the Windsor Casino. Its once fine view of the Detroit River is all but lost.

EVA BROOKE DONLY HOUSE: SIMCOE

William Yeager, the curator of the museum, showed slides of the museum that was built in 1845. Not too many changes had taken place. Mrs. Donly left the house to the Town of Simcoe. A large gallery addition to the rear of the house was designed by Carlos Ventin, architect.

HUTCHISON HOUSE: PETERBOROUGH

Stephanie Ford Forrester, curator of the Hutchison House described how the citizens of Peterborough built the house for Doctor Hutchison. Peter John Stokes, consulting restoration architect, supervised the restoration which cost about \$122,000. The house is open 11 months of the year and features special exhibits and educational programmes. It adheres to museum guidelines and operates on a budget of about \$80,000.

JOSEPH SCHNEIDER HOUSE: KITCHENER

Susan Burke, director of the Schneider House, showed slides of the house before, during and after the restoration. The house was built by Joseph Schneider in 1816. He had come from Pennsylvania in 1807.

The restoration began in 1979 under the direction of John Rempel, architect. The house and activities interpret the lives and daily chores of the Schneider family in the late 1850s. There are extensive educational programmes and special weekend programmes such as quilting and weaving. An addition was designed by Christopher Borgal, architect in 1987. It houses a gallery and meeting space. The house has been fortunate to have a fine collection of folk art presented to



Joseph Schneider House, 1816.
Bob Rowell

it called the *Canadian Harvest Collection*. More recently a beautiful collection of woven coverlets was donated to the house.

WOODCHESTER VILLA: BRACEBRIDGE

Donna Ivey presented some slides of the interesting octagonal house built in 1882 by Henry James Bird. The house overlooks the river and dam in Bracebridge. It was sold to the Rotary Club in 1978 and the Bracebridge Historical Society was responsible for the restoration. It is stucco over gravel walls.



Woodchester Villa, 1882. Bracebridge.
Bob Rowell

SATURDAY, APRIL 23, 1994

WHEN A HOUSE IS NOT A HOME: A GIFT TO LAST

Dorothy Duncan, executive director of the Ontario Historical Society, past Chairman of the Ontario Heritage Foundation and former curator of Black Creek Pioneer Village presented the keynote address. She showed slides of Scadding Cabin on the CNE grounds. John Scadding had been the estate manager for John Graves Simcoe in 1794. The York Pioneers were established in 1869 and the cabin was given to them. It was used as a museum to display military artifacts.

In 1959 repairs were needed and John Rempel was asked to make a list of the necessary repairs. The Toronto Historical Board became responsible for the cabin in 1966 and a curator was hired in 1973.

Mrs. Duncan posed some interesting questions:

- why do some buildings survive and others do not? Perhaps it is timing.
- what motivates a donor of a property?
- why do large companies give away properties?
- what motivates organizations and institutions to accept gifts?
- how much of the original building actually survives?
- why are certain structures overlooked?
- why preserve only the best rather than the ordinary?

The foundation also hold easements on 43 properties and owns 15,000 cultural objects and 350,000 archaeological objects.

REAL ESTATE - FROM BEQUESTS TO BANQUETS

Alice Nemeth, manager of Willistead Manor in Windsor described this state-ly Tudor-Elizabethian mansion located in the Walkerville area of Windsor. It was built in 1904-1906 by Hiram Walker for his son Edward. The architect was Albert Kann. The property was deeded to the City of Windsor and part of the residence became a library. The house was restored in the late 1970s at a cost of 1.5 million dollars. Patrick Coles was the restoration architect.



Homewood 1800, Maitland

Bob Rowell

WHEN A HOUSE IS HELD IN TRUST

Richard Moorehouse of the Ontario Heritage Foundation gave a slide presentation of the properties owned by the Ontario Heritage Foundation. The list is a lengthy one containing many impressive buildings. The following is just a sample:

- Barnum House in Grafton
- Cartwright House in Kingston
- Fulford Place in Brockville
- Homewood in Maitland
- Inge-Va in Perth
- Mather Walls in Keewatin
- Niagara Apothecary in Niagara-on-the-Lake
- Spadina House in Toronto

The house is open to the public and it is also rented out for such functions as banquets and wedding receptions.



Inge Va, Perth

Bob Rowell

GIFTS TO LONDON - LIKE IT OR NOT

Lynne Distefano, director of museums for the City of London showed

slides and described several properties in London.

The Elsie Perrin Williams Estate is a Spanish Colonial House built during the First World War. It was willed to the City. Julia Beck did a feasibility study on the house and it is now used as a meeting and conference centre.

Spencer Hall is a Georgian Revival house built in the early 1930s. It was sold to the University of Western Ontario and used for years as a women's dorm. It has had a large modern addition added and has become a conference centre.

Eldon House, built in 1834, had four generations of the Harris family living in it. It is a house museum that is presently undergoing some restoration.

The Gartshore Estate was the property of James Ferguson. It was a large residence left to Victoria Hospital who demolished the house and sold the property to a developer to erect two large highrise apartment buildings on the property.

Grosvenor Lodge was the home of the Peters family. It was built in the 1850s and sold to the University of Western Ontario. It is now a Heritage Resource Centre.

MATTERS OF LAW RELATED TO BEQUESTS

Catherine E. Bray, B.A., L.L.B., of the firm Borden & Elliot presented a very informative talk on gifts, conditional gifts and trusts. She also discussed contracts, restrictive covenants and easements. A 34 page booklet entitled "Ways to Ensure a Gift of Heritage Property is Used as Intended" prepared for the Architectural Conservancy by Catherine E. Bray and Aaron Blumenfeld was available after the talk. It is a most thorough and useful document to have and we hope every ACO branch has one in their file. If not, contact the office in Toronto and ask to have one mailed to you. The following is the conclusion of the report:

"There is really no fully satisfactory way to ensure that a heritage property is maintained for a lengthy period of time after it is given to someone. Many of the "traditional" methods, such as conditional gifts, contracts and, albeit to a lesser extent, trusts, potentially run into problems with the Perpetuities Act. Trusts provide a use-

ful tool if the property owner is most concerned about the uses to which the land is put and not with controlling to whom ownership should pass if it is not so used. Imposing a restrictive covenant may be a solution if the arrangement qualifies within the definition of such a covenant. However, unless approval under the Planning Act is obtained, the restrictive covenant can only last 21 years less a day. Finally, the Ontario Heritage Act provides a variety of possible methods that may be useful although these require the cooperation of government officials. To be most certain of maintaining a heritage property, it may be preferable to use more than one of the above methods on a given piece of land."

WALKING TOURS

There were two walking tours available. One was a bus ride to Cruickston Park in Blair. The house was not open, however, a group of landscape architecture students from the University of Guelph met us and we toured the extensive grounds and looked at the buildings on the estate.

The second tour was of historic Trinity Anglican Church in Galt, which is celebrating its 150th anniversary. A display of photos and drawings of the church have been mounted on the walls, showing the changes to the structure over the years. The church interior features many fine stained glass windows.

The afternoon concluded with tea at Trinity Church.

ACO DINNER

The dinner was held at the Mill Restaurant in Cambridge. The speaker was John Nicholson, an architect in London who is on the London Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee (LACAC) and Vice-Chairman of the London Society of Architects.

Mr. Nicholson's presentation was on Petersville, an inner suburb of London, west of the Thames River, near the centre of town. The area was developed between 1850 and 1900.

A study was made of the area taking into consideration the concerns of the residents. It was an intensive four-day study done by architects and students that resulted in design guidelines for

the area. This type of study is an alternative to a much longer heritage conservation district study.

Mr. Nicholson also talked on design in general and showed examples from Vancouver and Florida.

Annual General Meeting

SUNDAY, APRIL 24, 1994
CITY HALL, CAMBRIDGE,
ONTARIO

WELCOME

It is a pleasure to welcome members to the sixty-first annual general meeting of the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario. We are grateful to Cambridge City Council for making this very appropriate space available to us for the 1994 conference and for the annual general meeting.

MINUTES

The minutes of 1993 annual meeting were circulated to members as part of the most recent (Winter 1994) edition of ACORN, giving all members an opportunity to peruse them. The minutes were approved as circulated.

BUSINESS ARISING

First "Chiefswood", the extremely important house near Brantford which was discussed at both the 1992 and 1993 annual meetings. You may remember that in 1992 the roof and the foundations urgently needed attention. The work on the foundations is now complete but the roof is covered with sheets of plastic while the Restoration Committee continues to raise funds to install cedar shakes. Many members will recall that a plaque recognizing "Chiefswood" as a building of architectural importance, as well as a place of historic significance, will be erected by the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada when the first stage of restoration is complete.

I must also bring you up to date on the new heritage legislation. In August of 1993, the Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Recreation released a working draft of the new legislation. It closely

followed the recommendations of the Minister's Advisory Committee (MAC) on which Alec Keefer represented the ACO for over a year. In September, the MAC was asked to meet again to scrutinize the working draft and to submit further recommendations at that time or at further formal and informal meetings. I was surprised to see (I was representing the ACO by that time) how many changes to the working draft were incorporated in the revised working draft released at the end of November. For months we have been told that the legislation would go to the House in the late spring of 1994. However, I had it on good authority on Thursday before the AGM (April 21st) that the legislation will not be introduced into the house this spring. Instead, work is continuing on the regulations to accompany the bill and the whole package, the legislation and the regulations, should go to the House in the fall of 1994.

SKINNER-JACKSON HOUSE IN CAMDEN EAST

In June 1993 we signed a year's lease with the sitting tenant who, in return for reduced rent, would allow other people to rent the front part of the house for short periods. Only three people chose to take advantage of these "short-term rents". So we cannot claim that the enterprise was a success from either a philosophical point of view or from a financial point of view. What a pity! My family was one of the three who rented the half-house and we found it a delightful spot to relax. It will be available for weekends until June 15th but we are now negotiating a new lease, at a market rent, for another year. One day, perhaps in 1995, it will be sold. I find that very few people know the full story of the ACO's involvement in the Skinner-Jackson House. I would therefore be pleased to answer brief, informal questions after my report, or to discuss it informally over lunch.

In my last annual report I noted that in 1993 we hoped to raise money for a special project through a grant (up to \$30,000) from the Bronfman Foundation and also hoped to raise funds for general expenses through selling a cash calendar. The news is not good. Our application to the Bronfman Foundation was unsuccessful: un-

fortunately, it seems we misread the term "community" in the application. We interpreted it to mean "community at large" but the Foundation apparently took it to mean "small communities or neighbourhoods". The cash calendar was not ready for sale in late 1993 because we encountered an unexpected amount of red tape. Rod Angevarre will bring you up to date on this project when he gives the report of the Fund Raising Committee.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

In many ways this has been a year of change. In July 1993, a new part-time administrator, John Martins-Manteiga, started work in the office (officially 12 hours a week but I know that he often works much longer). In September we acquired a new Treasurer, John Sutlic, who, like other recent treasurers is a chartered accountant and also has experience as an auditor. Early in 1994, Steven Sutlic took over as our part-time bookkeeper.

It was difficult to have a new treasurer and a new administrator starting work at much the same time. For the first few weeks, I think John Manteiga had the impression that he was expected to learn the routine of the ACO office by osmosis and as the administrator and the executive were seldom close enough for osmosis to operate, the learning process was spasmodic. We have now passed that stage and John can answer most of the questions which come to him.

We have also developed a new Strategic Plan to guide the ACO for the next five years. It, too, was included in the last issue of ACORN and will be presented later this morning for your consideration. The Plan was developed in a most democratic fashion: two Strategic Planning sessions, attended by a broad cross section of members, were held in November 1993 and January 1994. At these meetings members considered first our goals for the next five years, and then how we should aim to reach these goals. The development of a Strategic Plan was initiated by a request from the Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Recreation that provincial heritage organizations include a Strategic Plan with their applications for 1994 support grants, but in proposing this plan we are not simply responding to a request from the Min-

istry. It is nearly six years since I submitted my review of the ACO (commonly known as the "Intern's Report") to Council. Many of the changes I recommend have been carried out and it is time for a new plan.

A Marketing and Fund Raising Study, to be carried out by the firm of Genovese, Vanderhoof and Associates, will complement the Strategic Plan. Thanks to a project grant from the Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Recreation, and the support of Genovese and Vanderhoof, the ACO will receive an analysis of its current funding patterns and opportunities and a survey of the products and services it now provides to its members and the community for a little over \$3,000 of our own money. Genovese and Vanderhoof is a consulting firm that specializes in income development for "not for profit" institutions. We hope to receive advice on topics as varied as marketing our publications, developing new products and services, and increasing our membership. We look forward to the results of this study - Genovese and Vanderhoof's clients include the National Ballet of Canada, the McMichael Canadian Art Collection and the Royal Conservatory of Music.

Two heritage highway bus tours were held in 1993 - one along Hwy 3 from Windsor to St. Thomas and the other along Hwy 2 from Brockville to Belleville. They provided access to buildings which are seldom open to the public and, as a bonus, raised approximately \$2,000. Two more tours have been proposed for 1994, perhaps stepping outside Ontario to Detroit and Buffalo.

I regret that the book on Eric Arthur scheduled for publication in 1993 has been put on hold while we wait for the results of the Marketing and Fund Raising study and for approval of the Strategic Plan. Bill Moffet has developed an outline of the proposed book, an important project which will not be scrapped: it has simply been postponed.

Despite new activities Council has not ignored one of its most important roles - supporting new and established branches. Council has continued to meet four times each year, with each Branch entitled to send two voting delegates to the meetings. These are the occasions when branch representatives have an opportunity to report on activities in their areas and to ask for ad-

vice. If branches do not send representative or those representatives do not ask for help, it is very difficult to offer assistance. In the last year we have been pleased to provide assistance to Brant County Branch; the new By-law approved for Brant may well become a model for all Branch By-laws. And we have been encouraged by a strong show of interest in starting a branch in the Rideau area. In fact, we had hoped to welcome a new Rideau Branch at this meeting and I understand there is at least one representative of the proposed branch here today - we look forward to developments in the Rideau area in the next few months.

During my two years as president, I have visited all the Branches except Port Hope and Cambridge. We have also prepared the draft of a branch manual to help both new and existing branches. And membership records in head office have been improved, although, in my opinion, they need to be more detailed and reports from branches to head office need to be submitted regularly.

I thank all members of the Executive, the Chairs of the four standing committees - Programme Development, Fund Raising, Membership and Publicity, Publications - Margaret Rowell, the editor of ACORN, Bill Greer, the Chair of the Advisory Board, Howard Chapman who represented the ACO on the working group set up to review the Ontario Building Code and Anthony Butler who represents us on the committee considering the future of Ruthven Park, near Cayuga. I also thank Alison Jackson who agreed to be coordinator of the conference and took on additional responsibilities associated with the annual general meeting, and all members of the Council AGM and Local AGM committees who worked to make this conference and AGM a success. I particularly want to thank Margaret Goodbody, secretary of Council, who gave more of her time than any secretary should be expected to give. I particularly appreciated her help in developing the Strategic Plan and in serving as the Executive Committee representative on the AGM Committee.

Finally, I am disappointed that I was unable to do some of the things I set out to do when I became president. The annual conference, started in

1992, have become an established item on the ACO calendar. The committee system is stronger than it was two years ago-but we want to do away with "one person committees" and make sure that all committees meet regularly; the records of membership at head office are more complete than they were but again they need to be more detailed and to include full membership data for all branches.

After two years as president, I am convinced that the ACO cannot become a vigorous and respected member of the heritage community until it has a full administrator. At best it can move forward in a somewhat halting fashion - taking a step or two forward when it has a president who has time and energy, and maintaining the status quo or moving backward when the president has a full-time job. A full-time administrator obviously requires money. Let us hope the Marketing and Fund Raising study will show us how to raise that money.

Julia Beck

BUSINESS MEETING

The required business meeting and annual meeting was conducted, minutes of which will appear in the Annual Meeting Issue of ACORN in the spring of 1995.

BRANCH REPORTS AT THE ANNUAL MEETING

Branches were asked to give reports on the conference theme or on an issue at the local level that they had been dealing with.

BRANT COUNTY

President Bill Darfler spoke about the Thomas House which was built in 1835 (see ACORN XVII-4 Winter 1992). It has been moved onto a new foundation and is in the process of being refurbished.

HERITAGE CAMBRIDGE

The announcement was made that the Grand River had been officially given Heritage River status. A brief talk was given about Trinity Anglican Church by Ross Anderson.

HERITAGE OXFORD

Sheila Johnson presented slides of the interior stencilling of the Embro Town Hall which is in the process of restoration.

We also heard about the ongoing project of photographing heritage trees in the area.

LONDON REGION

Michael Baker showed slides and discussed Waverly House, a large Victorian mansion built about 1882 and designed by Hamilton Tovey with significant modifications by George Durand for the owner Charles Goodhue. Over the years some additions have been added but they all seem to blend in with the original. The house is now a full-care senior facility.

The second building is the 1878 Victorian mansion known as Idlewyld, built for Charles S. Hyman a wealthy businessman and politician. It is now known as the Idlewyld Inn. An addition has been added that blends well with the original.

HURON COUNTY

John Rutledge announced that the small branch is still in existence. They are having a house tour on July 9th from 10 am to 4 pm with six houses on the tour.

QUINTE REGION

Dan Atkinson announced the walking tour booklet called "A Month of Sundays" with 250 pages of tours and photos was ready at a cost of \$15.00. Fifteen walking tours of the Quinte area are in the book. The group is planning a bus tour to historic Merrickville on August 21. The walking tours take place the third Sunday of the month for 10 months of the year. The attendance is usually from 40 to 120 people.

PORT HOPE BRANCH

Terry Ford spoke about the walking tour of Port Hope the branch was preparing. He announced the former Registry Office was now the archives building. The Capitol Theatre project is well on its way. So far \$300,000 has been raised for the restoration.

NORTH WATERLOO

Marg Rowell showed slides and described the architecture and history of the Homer Watson House and Gallery in Doon (Kitchener). The house, a Scottish gothic design, was built by Adam Ferrie in 1835. Homer Watson was born in Doon in 1855 and bought the house in 1883. He built a studio addition in 1894 and painted a frieze on the studio walls to represent the paintings of such famous artists such as Turner and Constable. In 1906 Watson built a large gallery on the right hand side of the house. The house and gallery owned by the City of Kitchener is a popular place with visitors and has a full gallery exhibition programme as well as art classes catering to various tastes.

The day concluded with lunch served by Heritage Cambridge members. People could then go on a self-guided tour of Blair, and end the day with tea at Langdon Hall.

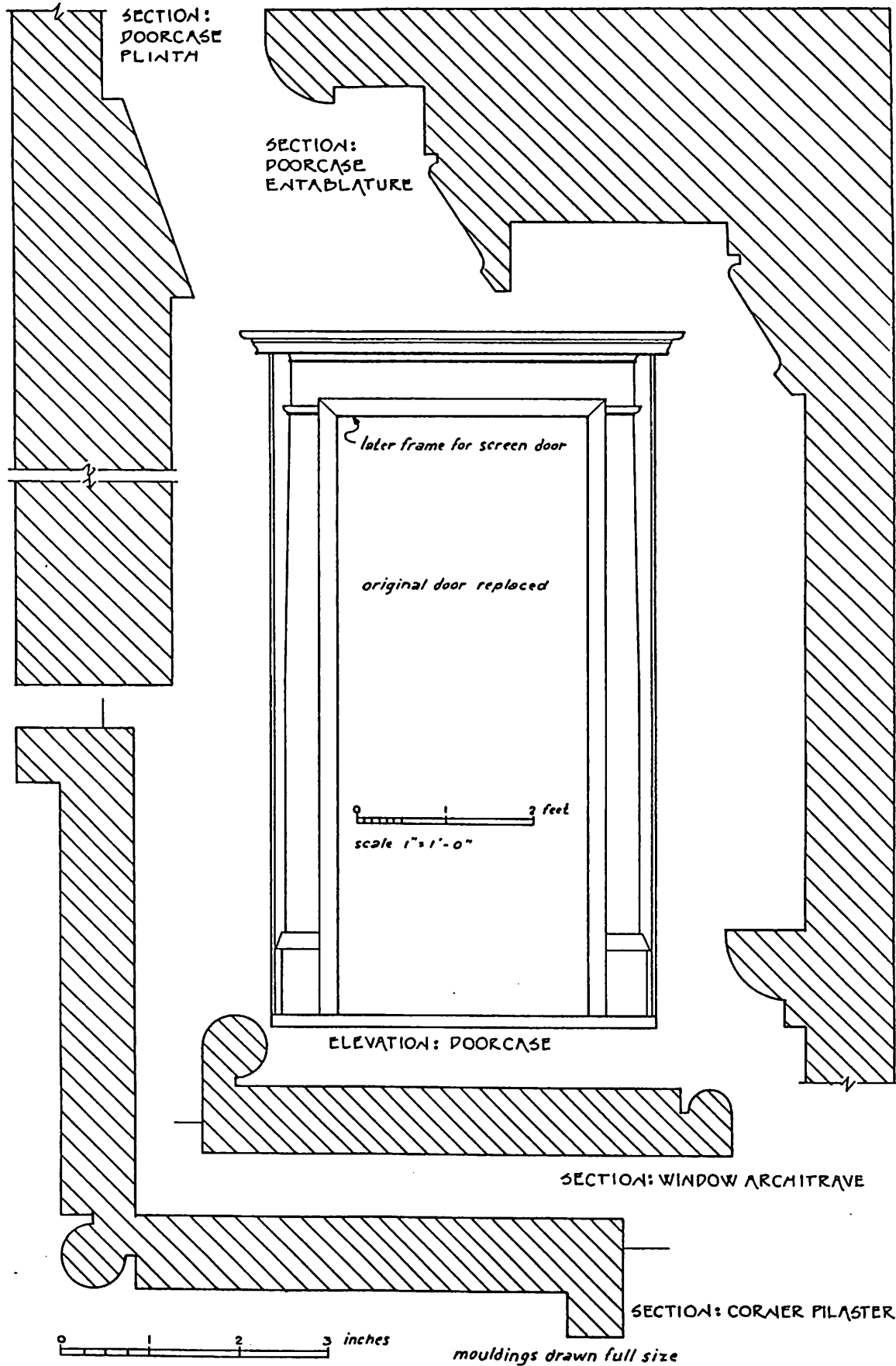
Pennsylvania-German Log House to be Preserved

At a time when so much of the news about heritage conservation is in a negative vein, it is refreshing to be able to report a success story involving an architecturally significant property in the City of Vaughan.

Recently, Heritage Vaughan (the city's LACAC) was made aware of an insul-brick clad log house sitting vacant on the property of a paving company. Its location was on the west side of Jane Street, south of Rutherford Road. because the house was located down a long lane, it was not visible from the street and had escaped the ever-present attention of vandals and scavengers that thwart the efforts of conservationists.

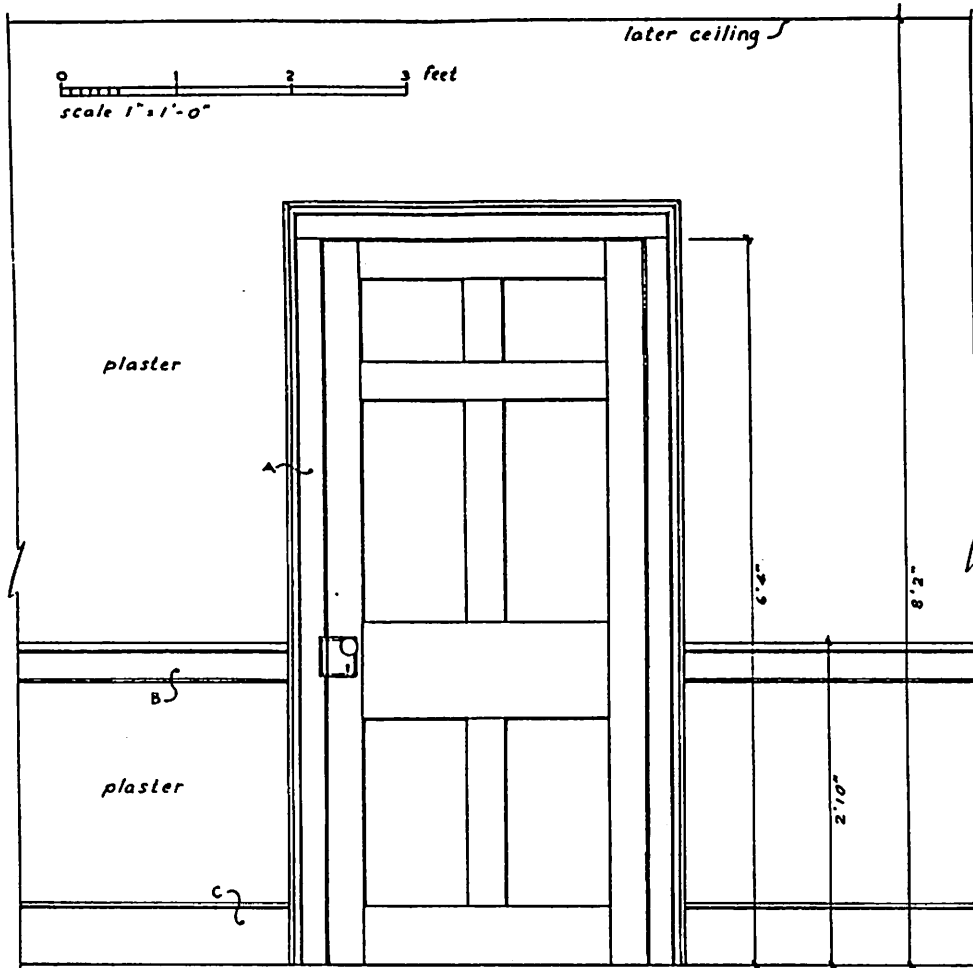
Preliminary research revealed that the abandoned house was of plank-form log construction, a building technique typical of the Pennsylvania-German architectural tradition. The presence of original doors, interior mouldings and hardware indicated that this was a very early building that merited further study and preservation.

Prospects for rehabilitating and re-

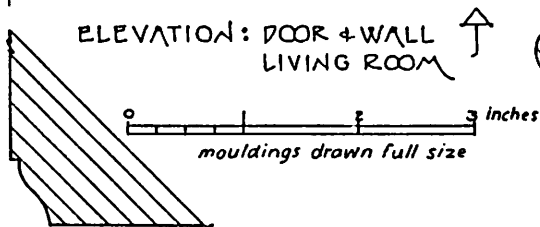


PICKNOUT-KINNEE HOUSE • EXTERIOR DETAILS •

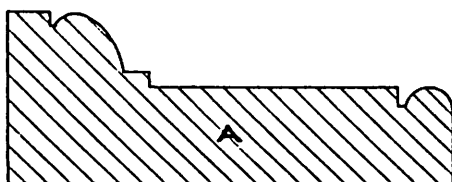
5 1/2 LOT 14, CONCESSION 5, VAUGHAN TWP. • Circa 1830 • DRAWN BY G. DUNCAN OCTOBER, 1993



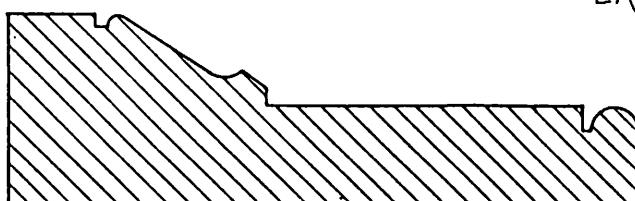
ELEVATION: DOOR + WALL
LIVING ROOM



SECTION: LOWER CORNER OF
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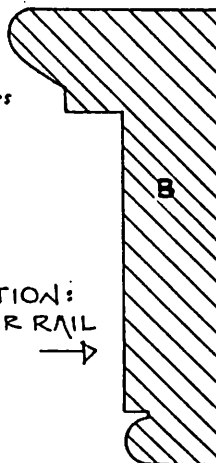


SECTION: EARLY DOOR ARCHITRAVE

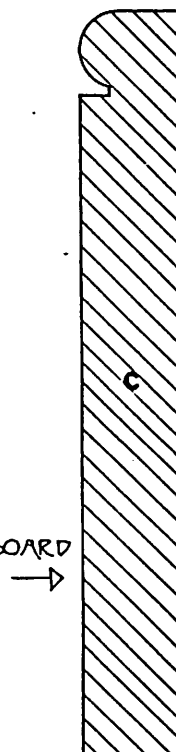


SECTION: LATER DOOR ARCHITRAVE

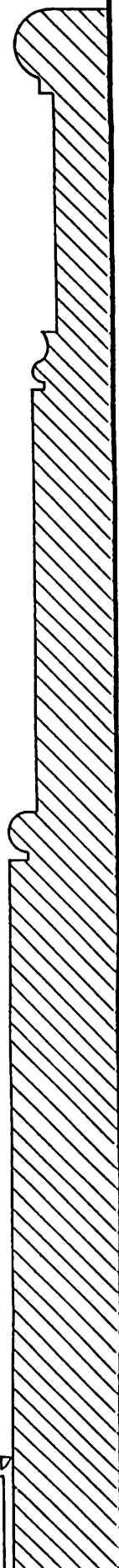
SECTION:
CHAIR RAIL



SECTION:
EARLY BASEBOARD



SECTION:
LATER BASEBOARD



PICKMOUT - KINNEE HOUSE • INTERIOR DETAILS •

5½ LOT 14, CON. 5, VAUGHAN TWP. • Circa 1830 • DRAWN BY G. PUNCAW, OCTOBER, 1993



The Peter Dickhout Log House on its original site. Prior to the application of the insul-brick, the log walls were clapboarded.

Photo courtesy of Heritage Vaughan

tenanting the house on site were bleak, and by the summer of 1993, it appeared as though the building might be lost. A full series of interior and exterior photographs were taken, and detailed measurements of significant features were drawn up to preserve a record of the building.

Fortunately, a buyer came forward with a proposal to dismantle the structure and relocate it to his property in the Township of King. The care that went into the dismantling of the building enabled further recording of its structural details and evolution.

The log house was probably built circa 1830 by Peter Dickhout, the American-born son of Henry Dickhout, the original property owner. Historical research has suggested that the Dickhout family were residents of the City of Philadelphia prior to their arrival in Upper Canada in the late 1790s.

The Dickhout house is a substantial building, a full two storeys in height with a four-bay front. Its walls are constructed of timbers hewn to a shallow depth in comparison to their height. Some of the timbers are up to 28 inches in height, but are only about 8 1/2 inches in depth. The exceptional size of the logs enabled the builder to reach a full two storey height with only eight timbers.

During the mid 19th century, the house was substantially remodelled, resulting in the updating of exterior detailing and the reworking of the interior layout.

Although a great amount of early material remained visible, many details were hidden beneath later alterations. Items of architectural interest

that appeared as the layers of changes were stripped away included moulded joists supporting the second floor and attic floor, remnants of a substantial summer beam or girder, large bricked-in gable end fireplace openings, and evidence of the original floor plan.

The Dickhout House shares many similarities with the Stong Second House at Black Creek Pioneer Village, constructed during the same period. The early floor plans and detailing of both buildings are strikingly similar, with the exception of the location of their fireplace chimneys. In the Stong House, the heavy brick chimney is located in the approximate centre of the interior, which is more consistent with traditional examples found in Pennsylvania.

While it is unfortunate that the Dickhout Log House has been removed from its original site and thus been disconnected with its historical associations, it will remain in York Region as a significant example of Pennsylvania-German plank-form log construction.

George W.J. Duncan

Branch Reports

Port Hope

THE REGISTRY BUILDING

For a looney, the town has become the proud owner of the former registry building. The town council will now negotiate a long term lease with the

Port Hope Branch of the ACO and the East Durham Historical Society. The two groups hope to turn the building into an archive for local historical documents and photographs.

Until last year the building housed the local land-registry office, but Queen's Park closed the office and moved its operation to Cobourg.

As the provincial government obtained the building from the former United Counties for one dollar in 1970 for use as a registry office, town council fought to have it returned for the same price. Preliminary talks between the ACO and the Historical Society have taken place. The details of a lease from the town have still to be worked out.

WALKING TOURS

Over the years, the ACO Port Hope Branch has prepared and printed pamphlets and leaflets identifying buildings of architectural interest for visitors to our town. These brochures have always been well received. As more people come to Port Hope, particularly to see our heritage buildings, and to find out more about our history, the need increases for information to aid their explorations. These pamphlets need to be updated. It has been decided to update the walking tour information by developing a series of tour guides, each covering a different part of town.

A JEWEL OF AN EVENING

On March 15, Ms. Simmons of Chatwood and Simmons, spoke to members and friends on antique jewellery. Metric equivalencies of gold were explained, cutting grade and styles of diamonds, jewellery appraisal, and the various gems were mentioned.

After her talk members of the audience were invited to bring up their own pieces to be shown and explained. It was an interesting and instructive evening.

Marion Garland

Port Hope House Tour

The Port Hope Branch holds its ANNUAL HOUSE TOUR on Saturday, October 1, 1994 from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. This popular event will feature an



Hume-Blackwood House 1914. Port Hope.

Michael Wallace, Photographer, Port Hope

eclectic mix of interesting homes and public buildings from the Town's extensive array of nineteenth century architectural gems.

Among the many interesting houses included in the year's tour will be that of internationally-acclaimed Canadian artist David Blackwood and his wife Anita. Theirs is a fine example of classical revival. The house was built in 1914 from John A. Hume as a wedding gift for his son and daughter-in-law and stands on one of Port Hope's most historic streets.

Structural changes were made to the house in the 1930s which transformed the sitting-room and study into the present large drawing room on the ground floor. Since 1973 when the Blackwoods purchased the house, it has undergone careful refurbishing and decorating highlighted by many fine antiques and works of art. Several exterior features have been restored from the original plans as well.

Both the house and its beautiful gardens will be open for viewing on Tour Day.

Throughout the day, coffee and tea will be served at St. Mark's Anglican Church (located near the Blackwood House) while lunch will be available at St. John's Anglican Church.

Tickets for the tour are limited and the price is still only \$12.00. The tour is always a sell-out! For more information or to obtain ticket forms, call 905-885-6960 or write to the Port Hope ACO, Box 563, Port Hope Ont. L1A 3Z4.

Marion Gellatly

Oxford County

A joint project between the Oxford Branch of the ACO and the Oxford Historical Society has proven to be a real success in informing people of the richness of our rural domestic architecture. "North Oxford in Focus" is a slide show that has been shown to numerous groups throughout the county and a photo-essay of these homes was also produced and has become part of the Woodstock Museum's permanent collection. The positive response and the continued interest in these projects has been encouraging as it reflects the general appreciation of the people of this county for their architectural heritage.

This project involved the travelling of many miles of back roads to choose good examples of architectural styles and then to return again with members of the Oxford Camera Club and their practiced eye to shoot our chosen subjects. After many hours of dark room development and the research of background materials we were ready to go on the road with a one hour documentary showing a wide variety of house styles and also stories of individual house histories.

North Oxford consists of the townships of East Nissouri, West & East Zorra, Blandford and Blenheim. The whole area is one of prime agricultural land with a strong economic base that allowed many early residents the opportunity to execute the style and quality of home they so chose. Also

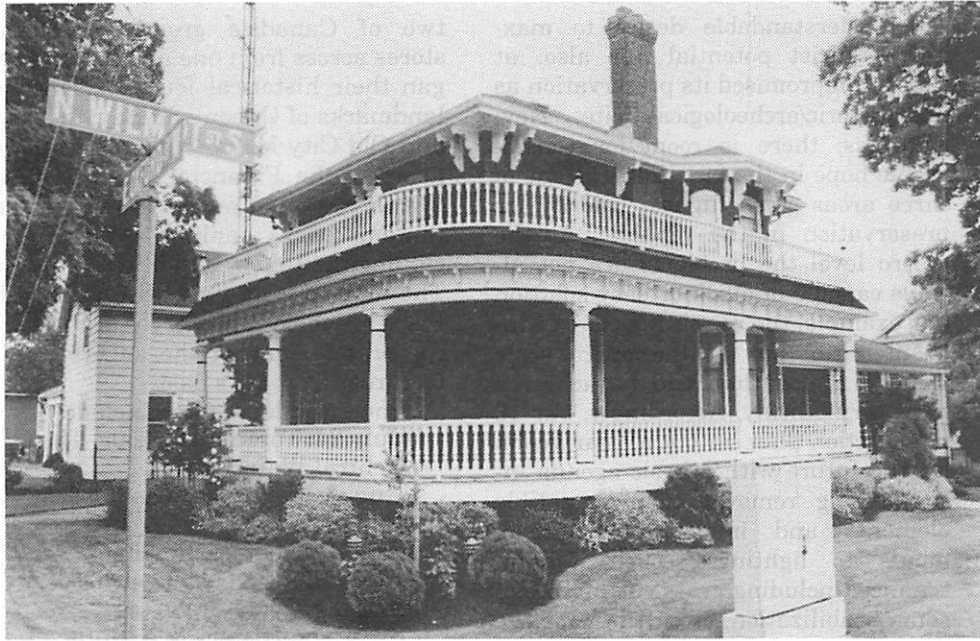
contributing to this choice of habitation expression was their land of origin and this is clearly reflected in the different townships.

Blenheim, the first township to be opened for settlement, was one of Governor Simcoe's proprietor townships. His plan to expedite inland settlement by granting large grants of land to a proprietor, in this case Thomas Horner, resulted in the migration of Americans to Blenheim bringing their favourite style of republican expression - the Greek Revival. In Nissouri and West Zorra the majority group would be the enterprising Highland Scots whose architectural tastes were best expressed in the clean symmetrical lines and proportions of the Georgian and the vernacular Ontario farm house. Blandford and East Zorra have a good number of people with German and English ancestry and the squared Italianate and the vertical Gothic Revival with their romantic embellishments appear to have been the favourite styles of these townships. Of course, with the arrival of mass production and a new faith in mechanization and science at the turn of the century the then modern Edwardian style swept the county in popularity. These traditional styles were complimented with other domestic buildings such as the octagon house, the original log cabin, and many dwelling where the builder chose the most appealing elements of different styles and mixed it with imagination to create a very individualized architectural composition.

The future of these homes appear to be assured as most of them have either been restored or are in the process. These urban commuters from surrounding cities or family home owners of many generations demonstrate a strong appreciation for this rural architecture and express it through renewal and preservation.

Hopefully our humble road show will give recognition to these home owners, maybe inspire others to participate, but more realistically we would like to make house viewing a more popular and knowledgeable spectator sport.

Jack Hedges



Peterson House, Drumbo. Italianate with an Edwardian Veranda.
Heritage Oxford

A Restoration Project in Panamá Viejo

Since retiring from my practice four years ago I have been engaged on quite a number of projects in Latin America and Central America, as a volunteer consultant with CESO (Canadian Executive Service Organization).

Several of these have involved restoration/rehabilitation of historic sites and buildings - appropriate challenges for a past-president of the ACO Inc.! A recent project was the preparation of an action plan for the preservation of Panamá Viejo, rep. of Panamá, the first Spanish colonial city on the Pacific coast of the Americas.

This is a summary of my work there which I thought would be of interest to readers of ACORN, and, also, perhaps testify that past-presidents of ACO Inc. do not die but simply fade from sight from time to time.

PANAMÁ VIEJO: PRESERVATION OF A SPANISH COLONIAL CITY

It was quite a while since I sat in history class with other English schoolboys and journeyed, in imagination, with Drake, Frobisher and Morgan as they roamed the Spanish Main.

The setting of their exploits seemed a long way from the scene outside our classroom windows where scudding clouds from the Irish Sea cast sharp shadows on the placid, green playing field and cream flannelled cricketers.

Time passes and our horizons change. Recently, as ex-English schoolboy and subsequently Canadian architect, I stood in some of those imagined places of my youth and the wheel had turned full circle. The mission this time was not to plunder but to assist in preserving what was once one of the most prized cities of the Spanish colonies. Now known as Panamá Viejo, in the present-day republic of Panamá, it

was the great funnel through which flowed most of the gold and silver from the New World to the royal coffers in Madrid.

The story begins in 1519 when it became the first city to be founded on the Pacific coast of America. It was from here that the Conquistadors set out on their expeditions to the South which culminated in the conquest of the Inca empire in 1532 - and the discovery of unimaginable wealth. Panamá Viejo became the terminus from which the vast hordes of this treasure were transported to the Caribbean coast. Each year, laden mule trains took the arduous trails, el Camino Real, or el Camino de Cruces (mule and ship), for the annual fairs across the isthmus at Nombre de Dios (and, later, Portobelo) which marked the arrival of the Spanish fleet. Inevitably, such concentrations of wealth provoked pirate attack, and Morgan, the most feared predator, long coveted Panamá Viejo for his prize. Finally, he made his move in 1671 and Panamá Viejo was sacked in the ensuing battle. The invaders occupied the city for a month; when they left, the city was abandoned and a new one, the present capital, was commenced across the bay. (It was considered a healthier location and better for shipping.)

The ruins are impressive. Knee-deep in wild grass and a popular snack for the countless insects which lay in wait, I surveyed the 28 hectare site many times with Arquitecto Nilsen Ariel Espino, architect for the Di-



Convento de los Monjas (nuns) de la Concepcion, Panamá Viejo
Howard V. Walker

reccion Nacional de Patrimonio Hie-sotico, Instituto Nacional de Cultura. Despite the passage of over three centuries, the city plan is clearly comprehensible. It represents an early and important example of urbanism in his-pano-america, being laid out according to the explicit rules in the volumes of detailed regulations prepared by the Spanish crown for new settlements in the americas.

The extensive stone ruins are witness to the wealth of this city. Trade and commerce thrived, there were over one thousand mules here and fortunes were made in the monopoly of transportation to Portobelo, Venta de Cruz and Perico. Unfortunately, there is no visible evidence of any housing, for rich or poor, most of which was of cedar-wood and burnt in the battle. Interestingly, pottery kilns produced the glazed tableware known as "majolica" - they were one of only four sources for its manufacture in Spanish America. Despite the great volume of imported goods passing through the isthmus, evidently sufficient dinnerware for colonial tables was not among them.

The religious orders were especially well endowed, as we could well see from the stone remains of seven large convents, the cathedral, a hospital and the Bishop's Palace. Regrettably, the gold and silver crucifixes, candlestick and ornate altar pieces have long since disappeared. Just before Morgan's arrival, one of the gold altars was painted to simulate wood, the deception worked and, now cleaned, it graces the church of San José in the old quarters of the present-day city of Panamá.

In the early hours of December 20th, 1989, the old city became the target of another invasion as U.S. troops attacked one of Gen. Noriega's command posts located by the cathedral tower. Fortunately, the historic structures escaped damage.

Panamá Viejo is a national treasure and also an important part of the world's patrimony. It is facing another critical moment in its history. The ruins are suffering the consequences of age, neglect, climate, vandalism and incompatible new construction on the site. In addition, Via Cincuentenario, a highway, now bisects the old city, totally changing its character. Corrosive vehicle exhausts continue the assault upon the masonry landmarks while the increasing traffic flow makes their appreciation difficult and dangerous.

The understandable desire to maximize tourist potential has also, at times, compromised its preservation as an historic/archeological site. Nevertheless, there is room for considerable hope in the fact that it is one of three areas given highest priority for preservation in the republic. At the macro level the problems are not always capable of quick or easy solution (for example, the re-routing of Via Cincuentenario) but at the micro scale there is much that can be achieved here very quickly. Accordingly, our 10 point action plan set out a clear vision for the future with a basic agenda incorporating removal of incompatible elements and immediate improvements to lighting, security, maintenance (including grass cutting!), masonry stabilization, etc. It is hoped to develop an authentic cloister garden at the convento de Santo Domingo and the area once occupied by the principal plaza is to be cleared of latter-day interventions in keeping with its original design.

These key first steps will help to recapture and preserve the distinctive identity of Panamá Viejo as the republic's first colonial city. As such, it hold an unrivalled position in Panamá's rich historic and cultural heritage. The schoolboy's dreams were not without justification. There is a wealth of interest and fascination to be found in both ancient and post-Columbian legacies in this tropical land-bridge between North and South America. The remains of Panamá Viejo provide ample and eloquent affirmation.

Howard V. Walker

Coming Events

TAKE TO THE STREETS!

TORONTO HISTORY COMES TO LIFE

On Sunday afternoons from May 1st to October 2nd, the Toronto Historical Board will offer FREE guided walking tours exploring 12 different areas of Toronto history starting at 1:30 pm.

July 17: From Stone to Steel - The History and Architecture of Downtown Toronto. The tour begins at the Toronto Historical Board's headquarters just north of Queen Street. Pass the corner of Yonge and Queen where Robert Simpson and Timothy Eaton set up

two of Canada's great department stores across from one another and began their historical feud. Explore the landmarks of Queen and Bay: the New and Old City Halls. Walk through the heart of the Financial District, viewing Toronto's first skyscrapers and contemporary banking towers, including the tallest building in Canada. The tour ends on Front Street at BCE Place, which preserves and incorporates some of the superb architecture of Toronto's past.

Other scheduled tours include:

- July 24: Toronto Harbour- The Central Waterfront;
- Aug. 7: High Park-The Eastern Rim;
- Aug. 14: Historic Spadina- Its Gardens & Neighbourhoods;
- Aug. 21: From Stone to Steel-The History & Architect of Downtown Toronto;
- Sept. 11: Toronto Harbour-The Central Waterfront;
- Sept. 18: Fort York's Changing Waterfront;
- Sept. 25: Military History of CNE;
- Oct. 2: Simcoe's Don.

The Toronto Historical Board is located at 205 Yonge Street in Toronto. The telephone number is (416) 392-6827.

Special Announcements:

THE RIDEAU & THE OTTAWA: WOOD, WATER, STONE & POWER

Remember to mark May 17-21, 1995 on your calendar to join us in Ottawa! The ACO will be meeting simultaneously with the American Vernacular Forum. Over 200 of our neighbours to the south will be joining us in our capital to celebrate all things Vernacular. Tours by boat, bus & foot. Informative & interesting papers. "At The Confluence", the ACO's theme will consider how high style movements, principally the Gothic influenced the Vernacular in Ontario between 1867 & 1893.

Huron County Branch House Tour

GODERICH: "THE PRETTIEST TOWN IN CANADA"

Plan now to visit us on Saturday, July 9, 1994, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Registration & ticket sales will be at 60 West St., Goderich. Cost is \$10.00 general admission; \$8.00 all ACO members. Contact John Rutledge @ (519) 524-9285 for information & advance tickets which can be picked up until 11:00 a.m. on tour day.

ARCHITECTURAL CONSERVANCY OF ONTARIO

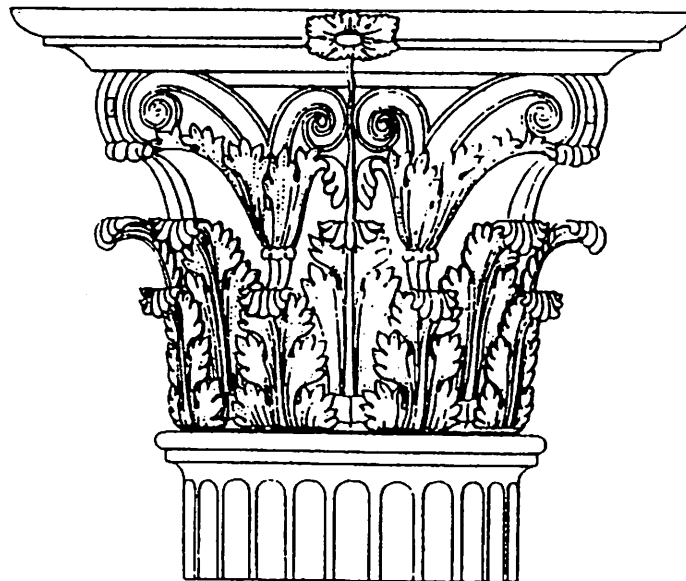
Annual House Tour

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1, 1994

10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

This Year We Are Featuring Our Usual Array of Vintage Homes • A Parish Hall
• Plus a Guided Walking Tour of Our Historic "Lower Towne"

Admission \$12.00



Tickets available at:

Port Hope Chamber of Commerce, 53 John St., Port Hope

Lord Russboroughs Annex, 82 Walton St., Port Hope

Furby House Books, 64 Walton St., Port Hope

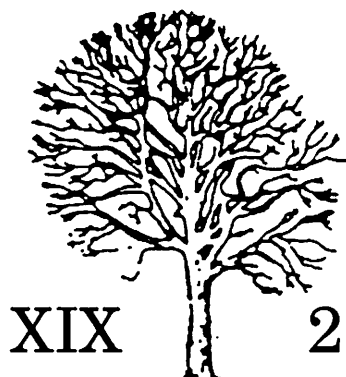
or by writing to:

Port Hope ACO, P.O. Box 563, Port Hope, Ontario L1A 3Z4

Please Call 885-6960 for Further Information



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